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M.L.

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : S. POTHAPRAGADA, et al.      Art Unit : Unknown  
Serial No. : Not yet assigned              Examiner : Unknown  
Filed : February 4, 2002  
Title : INTELLIGENT VIRTUAL VOLUME ACCESS

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to examination, please ~~amend~~ the application as follows:

**In the specification:**

Insert the following paragraph beginning at page 1, line number 2, immediately below the title, with the following paragraph:

**Cross-Reference to Related Applications**

This application claims priority under 35 USC §120 to commonly owned, copending U.S. Application Serial No. 09/286,248, filed April 5, 1999, the entire contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

Please ~~replace~~ the paragraph beginning at page 4, line number 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Advantages of the system includes the following. The total storage capacity of all data storage devices in a network can be tapped to satisfy each application's requirements. Thus, dynamic redistribution of storage capacity among servers is possible without requiring any physical disk relocation or change in data protection characteristics. As a result, the invention provides quick and reliable access to and management of large amounts of information on-line.